

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 3 and 4, to read as follows;

1. (Original) A rubber composition for a pneumatic tire comprising (i) 100 parts by weight of a diene-based rubber and (ii) 5 to 120 parts by weight of carbon black having a particle size of 15 to 40 nm, a nitrogen absorption specific surface area N_2SA of 60 to 200 m^2/g and a pH of 1 to 5 or 8.5 to 13.

2. (Original) A rubber composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein a dibutyl phthalate absorption DBPA of said carbon black is 30 to 80 ml/100 g.

3. (Currently Amended) A rubber composition as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said diene-based rubber is at least one member selected from the group consisting of natural rubbers, polyisoprene rubbers, polybutadiene rubbers, styrene-butadiene copolymer rubbers and ethylene-propylene-diene terpolymer rubbers.

4. (Currently Amended) A rubber composition as claimed in claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, wherein said carbon black is carbon black having a particle size of 18 to 35 nm, a nitrogen absorption specific surface area N_2SA of 70 to 180 m^2/g , a dibutyl phthalate absorption DBPA of 35 to 75 ml/100 g and a pH of 2 to 4.5 or 9 to 12.